Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Spunbond fleece of melt spun polymer fibers, characterized by the fact that

- the melt spun polymer fibers being stretched and having ~~have~~ a non-circular cross section with a trilobal, multilobal, flat, oval, Z-form, S-form or keyhole form fiber cross section,
- the melt spun polymer fibers have a low fiber titer between 0.5 and 5 dtex,
- the spunbond fleece has a low weight per unit area of between 7 g/m^2 and 20 g/m^2,
- said melt spun polymer fibers being stretched and having a non-circular cross section with a trilobal, multilobal, flat, oval, Z-form, S-form or keyhole form fiber cross section have preferred directions in the spunbond fleece and are spun and directly laid in a preferred direction perpendicular to the Z-direction and in the machine direction and/or transverse to the machine direction section such that the overlap of the cross sections of the fibers is greater than fleeces with fibers of circular cross sections at the same titer, and
- the spunbond fleece exhibiting a greater reduction of light permeability then a fleece having the same weight per area and circular cross section fibers having the same titer.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the polymer fibers have fiber titers in the range of between 1.4 dtex and 3.5 dtex.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the optical opacity, measured as the reduction of the light permeability, lies in the range of 6–9%.

6. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the spunbond fleece has weights per unit area between 10 g/m^2 to 20 g/m^2.

7. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the physical opacity , measured as sieve residue, lies in the range of 75% to 99%.

8. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the physical opacity , measured as air permeability, lies in the range of between $7 \cdot 10^3 l/m^2$ sec and $8 \cdot 10^3 l/m^2$ sec.

9. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the polymer fibers consist of polyolefins, PA, or polyester.

10. (Original) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the fleece is coated with an adhesive.

11. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 10, wherein the adhesive partially penetrates into the spunbond fleece and does not completely penetrate through the spunbond fleece.

12. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 10, characterized by the fact that in the temperature range between 140° C - 160° C the adhesive has dynamic viscosities in the range of 3000 mPas to 33000 mPas.

13. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 10, characterized by the fact that the portion of adhesive per m^2 of spunbond fleece lies between 0.5 g and 10g.

14. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, further comprising one or more inorganic salts .

15. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 13, further comprising titanium oxides and/or calcium carbonates between 0.1 and 5% by weight .

16. (Previously Presented) A hygiene product comprising the spunbond fleece of claim 1.

17. (Previously Presented) A filter material comprising the spunbond fleece of claim 1.

18. (Previously Presented) A household cloth comprising the spunbond fleece of claim 1.

19. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the spunbond fleece has a reduction of light permeability in the range from 5 to 20%, or the spunbond fleece has an air permeability in the range from $6 \cdot 10^2$ l/m^2 sec to $9 \cdot 10^3$ l/m^2 sec, or the spunbond fleece has a combination of said reduction of light permeability and said air permeability, wherein the reduction of light permeability is determined using a light table and an associated sensor that measures intensity of light passing through the light table, and wherein the reduction of light permeability is the difference between the intensity of light passing through the spunbond fleece and the light intensity in the absence of the spunbond fleece.

20. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, wherein the polymer fibers have a non-circular cross section with a trilobal or flat form fiber cross section and the cross sections of the fibers overlap from 25% to 53% greater than fleeces with fibers of circular cross sections at the same titer.

21. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, wherein the fleece consists of the polymer fibers and one or more inorganic salts.

22. (Previously Presented) Spunbond fleece according to claim 21 the one or more inorganic salts includes titanium oxides.

23. (New) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, wherein the spunbond fleece is hardened by thermal bonding.

24. (New) Spunbond fleece according to claim 1, wherein all of the melt spun polymer fibers have a non-circular cross section with a trilobal, multilobal, flat, oval, Z-form, S-form or keyhole form fiber cross section.